



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/870,301	05/30/2001	Prabuddha Biswas	A-017	8102
21253	7590	12/04/2003	EXAMINER	
CHARLES G. CALL 68 HORSE POND ROAD WEST YARMOUTH, MA 02673-2516			LE, MIRANDA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2177	
DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/870,301	BISWAS ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Miranda Le	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

2. Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities: "The method" should be changed to "a method". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By merely describing a process, the claims fail to meet the standard format of claiming convention, which should include matters such as a method with steps, or an apparatus/system comprising means. In this instance, the preamble of claim 8 should begin with "A...system..., comprising: ...".

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless:

(e) the invention was described in

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hancock et al.

(US Patent No. 6,202,023 B1).

Hancock anticipated independent claims 1, 8, 11, 18, by the following:

As to claims 1, 11, Hancock teaches “apparatus for performing location-dependent data processing operations comprising, in combination, a relational database management system for creating and updating data structures describing objects” at col. 31, line 65 to col. 32, line 51,

“said data structures including means for storing data specifying the geographic location of at least selected ones of said objects” at col. 5, line 53 to col. 6, line 64,

“means for storing reference data describing a plurality of system defined regions, said reference data including the specification of the geographic location of each given one of said system defined regions and a human interpretable description of each given one of said regions” at col. 9, line 65 to col. 10, line 67, col. 11, lines 1-8,

“a user-manipulated control for selecting a particular one of said regions” at col. 11, line 40 to col. 12, line 7, col. 17, line 52 to col. 18, line 3,

“means responsive to said control for transferring selected items of said reference data to said means for storing geographic location data associated with one of said objects” at col. 3, line 1 to col. 4, line 63.

As to claims 8, 18, Hancock teaches “in combination with a relational database management system for creating and updating data structures describing objects” at col. 31, line 65 to col. 32, line 51,

“said data structures including means for storing data specifying geographic locations associated with of at least selected ones of said objects” at col. 5, line 53 to col. 6, line 64,

“means for storing reference data describing a plurality of system defined regions at col. 9, line 65 to col. 10, line 67, col. 11, lines 1-8,

“said reference data including the specification of the geographic boundaries of each given one of said system defined regions and further including data comprising a human interpretable description of each given one of said regions” at col. 6, line 45 to col. 7, line 22, Fig. 1,

“said reference data being organized in a hierarchy of parent-child levels wherein each child region have geographic boundaries lying within the geographic boundaries of its parent region” at col. 12, line 11 to col. 13, line 4,

“a user-manipulated control for selecting a particular one of said regions and a particular one of said objects” at col. 11, line 40 to col. 12, line 7, col. 17, line 52 to col. 18, line 3,

“means responsive to said control for transferring data describing said particular one of said regions to said data structures to specify a geographic location associated with said particular one of said objects” at col. 3, line 1 to col. 4, line 63.

As to claims 2, 12, Hancock teaches “said data structures describing objects are relational tables describing one or more services each having a geographic location serving one of said system defined regions” at col. 17, line 52 to col. 18, line 3.

As to claims 3, 13, Hancock teaches “said means for storing reference data includes means for storing said reference data in a hierarchy of regions” at col. 12, line 11 to col. 13, line 4, col. 31, line 65 to col. 32, line 51, Fig. 20.

As to claims 4, 14, Hancock teaches “said hierarchy of regions consists of a parent-child hierarchy of levels holding regions of decreasing size characterized by each child region having a geographical extent the lies within the geographical extent of its parent region” at col. 12, line 11 to col. 13, line 4.

As to claims 5, 15, Hancock teaches “said reference data defines the boundaries of each of said regions and wherein any first region having defined boundaries within the boundaries of a region is nested within said second region within said hierarchy” at col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 22, Fig. 1.

As to claims 6, 16, Hancock teaches “said user-manipulated control includes means for selecting and combining a plurality of said regions to define a new user-specified region which combine said plurality of said regions” at col. 4, lines 35-63, col. 31, line 65 to col. 32, line 51, Figs. 19, 20.

As to claims 7, 17, Hancock teaches “said means responsive to said control includes means for transferring information describing said new user-defined region to said means for storing data specifying the geographic location of one of said objects” at col. 31, line 65 to col. 32, line 51, Figs. 19, 20.

As to claims 9, 19, Hancock teaches “said user-manipulated control includes means for selecting and combining a plurality of said regions to define a new user-specified region which combine said plurality of said regions” at col. 4, lines 35-63, col. 31, line 65 to col. 32, line 51, Figs. 19, 20.

As to claims 10, 20, Hancock teaches “said means responsive to said control includes means for transferring information describing said new user-defined region to said data structures to specify a geographic location associated with said particular one of said objects” at col. 3, line 1 to col. 4, line 63.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-3203. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene, can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax number to this Art Unit is (703) 872-9306. The TC 2100's Customer Service number is (703) 306-5631.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Miranda Le
October 16, 2003



GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER